

MINUTES

ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Adamson, Bassett, Lucero, McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Otter, Roberts, Twineham
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Committee Members Avera, Buck
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** Mark McGee and Brenda McGuire, MG Disposal
- STAFF PRESENT:** Senior Planner Allen, Revenue & Utility Services Manager Phyllis Garrova, Clerical Support Norton
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** June 17, 2009 Regular Meeting minutes approved as amended
- July 29, 2009 Special Meeting – Sustainability minutes approved as amended
- July 29, 2009 Special Meeting – West Coyote Hills minutes approved as amended.

INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:

ACTION ITEMS:

- a) None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- b) Report on roll-out of new residential Waste Collection Program (MG Disposal)

Mark McGee – reported that MG delivered over 88,000 containers in an 8-week period of time and only received two minor complaints about the roll out. Three or four Home Owner Associations decided they wanted the 35-gallon size containers. Normally 16 or 17 percent of the customers wanted the 64-gallon containers. One unusual request was for 11 yard waste containers. The e-waste collection, like the large bulky item collection, seems to be very popular. Residents need only to call MG to schedule a no charge pick up. Bulky items are picked up on the regular trash day by a different truck. E-waste pick ups are on different days. The standard time frame for a pick up is about seven days.

Brenda McGuire from MG Disposal said they will be providing public education information at the library on October 17th. Program information is also available on MG Disposal's web site. Newsletters will be mailed to all of the residents at the beginning of December. Korean translations are also available on the web at www.mgdisposal.net.

Phyllis Garrova – said the City has a Green Box Program for small batteries and cell phones. The collection boxes are located at City Hall, both libraries, maintenance, the various centers and in every facility. It would be helpful if the newsletter could include instructions on how to properly bag the items by taping the active end; placing with like batteries and putting them in the plastic bag.

Committee Member Twineham – asked about hazardous waste, in particular, paint cans and the restriction on the number of cans that the center will accept. Are there any plans for house pickups or planned roundups?

Mark McGee – paint is still part of the Hazardous Waste Program operated by the County of Orange. Roundups are not used because of transportation limitations regarding hazardous wastes.

Committee Member Twineham – mentioned that when he took paint cans to the center he was told he was over the limit on the number of cans they would take.

Brenda McGuire – said she would touch base with the manager at the center and put an article in the newsletter so that the public can be informed.

Committee Member Otter – questioned what happens to trash that is not collected through the source-separate container system and what amount of trash does this account for?

Mark McGee – estimated that 50-60 percent of the City's waste stream is part of the residential source-separated container system; the rest goes through mixed waste processing which is still being recycled.

Brenda McGuire – offered the Committee members a tour of the facility.

Committee Member Roberts – asked why the green colored containers are not being used for green waste, and suggested that sometime this fall or after the holidays MG should have another "Take This Can" campaign to give home owners another chance to get rid of their old trash containers.

Mark McGee – MG will put a reminder in the newsletter that old containers can be taken at any time. Regarding why green waste does not go in the green can, when AB-939 required only a 25% diversion rate, green waste was not part of the diversion so green cans were used for recyclables. Later when 50% diversion came about, yard waste came into the program but it did not make sense to try to re-educate people to switch the cans.

Chairman McNelly – is anyone looking at how well citizens are sorting.

Mark McGee – the waste stream has a flow process; it is too early to track the sorting.

Phyllis Garrova – added that there are a small percentage of people who are unwilling to sort.

Heather Allen – is MG still recommending that people who have a lot of yard waste place yellow stickers on the trash containers.

Mark McGee – yes, yellow stickers are still helpful if they are using their own containers.

Committee Member Lucero – is MG saving money with the new system?

Mark McGee – yes, MG has experienced an overall savings because the process is quicker. The same truck is used for all three pickups.

Chairman McNelly – have you seen any problems with fats/oil/grease, and will there be a special collection for times when there may be a problem.

Mark McGee – there have not been any problems to date. Thanksgiving is the only time that there may be an issue due to people using the turkey fryers.

Phyllis Garrova – the contract provides for other programs. In case something does come up, the contract allows the City to meet with MG to come up with a solution.

Chairman McNelly – offered to make available links to other communities, and places around the country that have a proactive collection programs for fats/oil/grease.

Committee Member Mitchell – how do you handle e-waste pick ups?

Mark McGee - e-waste is collected at the curb by a separate truck and packaged for another company to disassemble.

c) Follow up on Special Meeting – West Coyote Hills

Chairman McNelly – mentioned an article by Denny Bean that ran in the Fullerton Observer's Mid-September 2009 edition called "the Water Crisis." Mr. Bean clarified a misconception about where the City gets their water.

Committee Member Twineham – asked where does the West Coyote Hills project stand now? Will the City Council vote on the project?

Heather Allen – The next public hearing is before the Planning Commission, however the City is currently reviewing some information prepared in response to comments and is anticipating circulation of the new Green House Gas section. There will be another air quality measurement. South Coast Air Quality Management District has a threshold for whether or not the project is impacting C_o2. The project will propose specific actions of Best Management Practices to get to a certain level of reduction in Green House gases. The attorneys are looking at the environmental requirements. All of this will take approximately less than a year.

Energy and Resource Management Committee
September 16, 2009

Committee Member Brassett – was Chevron negative towards the Committee's recommendations.

Heather Allen – Chevron acknowledged that they need to do more, and are not likely to be the builders doing the project. Their struggle is how to agree to do more without tying the builder's hands. The project may not be built for five years, and by then new technology and products may be out. Chevron says that Title 24's new standard puts the project 15% above what their building cost is today, but a solar array may have a similar cost with additional green house reduction benefits. There will be a sustainability plan, and the project will need to comply with the standards based on the time the project is built. The City is asking for things that will protect the City, and would be more beneficial in terms of sustainability than just the basic Building Code requirements.

Committee Member McCormack – what comes out of this from the Committee in terms of a work product?

Heather Allen - the minutes from this Committee, Parks and Recreation, and Transportation will all go forward to the Planning Commission and City Council. The Committee may have the opportunity to review again depending on the Green House Gas analysis and what measures are being proposed.

Committee Member McCormack - is SCAG working on those green house gas thresholds and what is the time frame?

Heather Allen – SCAG is not but the South Coast Air Quality Board and the California Resource Board is looking at standards which should hopefully be finalized within the next 12-months.

d) Report on Burbank Food Waste Program

Committee Member Adamson – said he had no new news on the Food Waste Program

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:

Committee Member McCormack – said from his perspective reviewing the West Coyote Hills project was a positive experience.

Committee Member Mitchell – felt proud to work with all of the Committee Members.

Heather Allen – thought the discussions went well and the Committee did a good job.

Chairman McNelly – mentioned that there were about 150 people who attended the compost workshop last week and said the City of Irvine is now sponsoring workshops on composting. The process for obtaining the coupons from Fullerton Hardware for bins is working well. He mentioned an article from the Union Tribune that the water conservation has been so successful that the revenues are drying up. Some places have seen a 20% drop in water use.

San Francisco is experiencing a plastic bag problem. Some cities have started charging people for using plastic bags. There are no programs yet here in Fullerton. McNelly asked for an update on AB-402 the bill for bottle/cans.

There is a Coastal Water Clean Up this weekend from 9-noon if anyone wishes to help. See the banner over Euclid/Malvern as to where to meet.

Committee Member Mitchell – said she was in the City of Santa Barbara and was impressed by the will and dedication to get behind sustainability and conservation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourned at 8:45

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support